



TOWN OF ACTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
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Letter of Support- 18 Windsor Ave.

The Historic District Commission fully supports the application to CPC to provide funding to complete this indispensable project.

Where is our Town's civic presence in West Acton Village? That is to say, where is its *civic* presence in the sense of *civic* originating in the Latin *civicus*, from *civis* - citizen? While the "new" fire station on Central Street is a town building housing a crucial town service, the Town's civic presence in a building establishing a *space of public appearance* for its *citizens* will be the Old Fire Station at 18 Windsor Avenue. In the past year, the restoration of the exterior of the building has been completed. Two great doors have been installed in the long walled-over openings of the original truck doors. With the completion of the interior renovation provided by CPC funds, these doors will allow the interior of the ground level to open to the "front plaza" of the driveway as a united interior/exterior space. Imagine the activities that can take place there: Oktoberfest or a section of a even larger Farmer's Market, pancake breakfasts, outdoor theater, the biggest yard sale yet, Diwali, Obon! There is also an upstairs space which would be available for even more meetings of town volunteer committees. Or perhaps rented, for example, for the afternoon extension studio of the West Acton's School of Ballet classes currently located way off-site in the Exchange Hall. The Old Fire Station and its front plaza/driveway directly faces the Citizen's Library across Windsor Avenue. Together they will bracket the street with modest, but significant built representations of Acton's dedication to the provision of requisite spaces for its citizens cultural and civic assembly.

In the ongoing deliberative process of creating the Acton 2020 Master Plan, among the most significant and desirable goals recognized by Acton citizens is the re-establishment of West Acton Village as an active and attractive community. West Acton is now revealing nascent momentum in the revitalization of commercial and cultural life, and the necessary restoration of the buildings and spaces that provide for it. The exterior of Theater III's building is currently being restored, the commercial WAVE project is recently off the ground and partially occupied. New businesses are joining long established ones.

Now is the time to take all steps to maintain and increase this momentum. The completion of a Town building in a key location to provide an active civic presence is an essential component in this process.

Ron Rose on behalf of the Historic District Commission